participation of private sector in creation of bulk handling infrastructure. These include:

(i) Scheme such as Build-Own-Operate-Transfer (BOOT), Build-Own-Lease-Transfer (BOLT), Build-Own-Operate (BOO), Lease-Develop-Operate (LDO) Joint Ventures etc.

(ii) Generation of funds through public issues by private enterprises.

(iii) Automatic approval for Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) upto 100 per cent.

(iv) Loans from financial institutions, NABARD, external commercial borrowings.

(v) 100 per cent deductions in profit for the purpose of Income Tax for first 5 years and 30 per cent for the next five years.

(vi) Custom duty exemption on imported machinery not manufactured in India, on a case to case basis.

The private sector will also be encouraged to build godowns in which they will store and maintain foodgrains procured by the Government agencies, for which they will be entitled to storage charges.

Farming without agro-chemicals

2646. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether farmers have been practicing farming without using agro-chemicals and are getting record production; and

(b) if so, particulars therof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) and (b) Farmers are raising crops with varying levels of plant nutrients. No data have been collected about the farmers not using agro-chemicals at all and, therefore, about the crop yields being obtained by such farmers. However, the long term fertilizer experiments conducted by the Indian Agriculture Research Institute over last few decades have shown that the soil test based balanced

and integrated use of chemical fertilizers and organics give higher yields as compared to application of organics alone.

Promotion of contract farming

† 2647. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH:
DR. D. MASTHAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken a decision to promote contract farming and leasing out the land under the new agricultural policy;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that a draft of some new action-plan has been prepared regarding lands of 76 per cent small and marginal farmers in the country; and

(c) if so, the comprehensive outlines thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) The National Agriculture Policy envisages that the private sector participation will be promoted through contract farming and land leasing arrangements to allow accelerated technology transfer, capital inflow and assured markets for crop production, especially of oilseeds, cotton and horticultural crops.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Sunflower cultivation Bihar

† 2648. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of places in Bihar where sunflowers are cultivated; and

(b) the steps taken by Government to promote cultivation of sunflowers?

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.